



# Veteran VOICES

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Vol. 1 Issue 3

May 2000

## ❖ VETERAN SERVICES NEWS

### Show me the money!

Photo by M. Young



Ric Price (left) shows Jim Rising the official notification of the \$249,712 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor – Veterans' Employment and Training Services for their Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Project.

### Homeless veterans program receives employment grant

By Colleen Gilbert, staff writer

The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs received confirmation of a \$249,712 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL)– Veterans' Employment and Training Services for their Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Project.

"What this grant means basically is jobs," stated Ric Price, Grants and Contracts Assistant with the State Department of Veterans Affairs. "It means getting a number of homeless veterans off the street who can be job-ready in a short amount of time. These are veterans who can benefit from a helping hand, who have a lesser degree of need than the majority of our homeless vets."

This project, designed to provide services in the

Seattle metropolitan area and the surrounding Puget Sound Region of King, Pierce, Thurston, Snohomish, and Kitsap counties, will provide an opportunity to strengthen all homeless veteran programs operating within the service delivery area. Several veterans programs already providing homeless services lack a comprehensive, homeless veteran specific, employment opportunity. Individual homeless veterans' needs vary, with the majority requiring substance abuse and mental health therapy and counseling. When employable, they need a structured case management plan designed to fit their individual needs of security, housing, food, transportation and employment support services.

The program is designed to enroll 315 homeless veterans into an employment and training program that will enhance their employability development and increase their potential to secure employment. The program will also assist 180 homeless veterans to upgrade their housing situation, and 189 homeless veterans will be assisted in obtaining employment at an average wage of \$8.25 an hour.

The grant, is renewable annually based on the attainment of goals agreed upon by the USDOL and the WDVA. A total of \$15,000,000 was funded nationwide.

Statistics indicate 190,810 veterans reside in King county. The VA Puget Sound Health Care System estimates there are 6,000 homeless veterans in the Puget Sound Region of Washington.★

### What's Inside...

Grant for Homeless Program .....	page 1
Director's Message .....	page 2
Miss America Visit .....	page 3
Model of Community Service .....	page 4
Vet Homes Highlights .....	page 6
National Notes .....	page 10
Memorial Day Events .....	page 12

**Veteran Voices**

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May, 2000

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## It's all about Access, Awareness and Availability of services



*By John King, WDVA director*

On April 19, I was proud to announce that Lourdes (Alfie) Alvarado-Ramos, superintendent of the Veterans Home at Retsil, has accepted a promotion into a new executive position, assistant director of agency operations.

The move, part of restructuring the agency's executive team, is designed to help integrate two agency divisions, veterans services and the veterans homes, and to provide better access, awareness, and availability of services to Washington veterans.

The changes we are making are based on providing better access to services for our state's veterans. By creating the position and putting it in the capable hands of Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, we are taking the opportunity to ensure that veterans service, the homes and the central office work as one team to provide a continuum of care for those who served this country in the military.

The new position includes managing veterans services and providing oversight to the two veterans homes run by the agency.

While the promotion is effective immediately, Alvarado-Ramos is expected to

spend a portion of her time at Retsil until a new superintendent is in place. We will begin recruiting very shortly.

I have also asked John Lee, deputy director, to take over the management and oversight of the day to day administration responsibilities for the agency. John's significant experience in both the military and state government make him the right person for this expanded role. In addition, he and I will continue to aggressively work with our partners at the federal, state and local levels ensuring veterans and families of Washington State have better Awareness, Access and Availability of benefits and services. The Nation has a debt to our veterans' community that we take seriously and plan to ensure that Washington State veterans get the most progressive and broadest range of services possible.

*John King*



## Miss America honors homeless veterans

Photo by Colleen Gilbert



Heather French, the reigning Miss America, speaks to a group of veterans advocates at a dinner held in her honor in March. French, the daughter of a disabled Vietnam veteran, chooses veterans issues as the theme of her reign and is on a national tour to bring those issues to the attention of all Americans.

The first Miss America of the new millennium, Heather French from Kentucky recently visited Washington State on her speaking tour around the nation.

"As the daughter of a disabled Vietnam veteran, I pledge my heart, my hands and my voice to helping homeless veterans fight the battles they face on our nation's streets. So they don't face these battles alone, I urge all Americans to lend their support to these often forgotten men and women," French said to the audience of homeless veterans advocates, at the VFW Post 969 in Tacoma on March 21.

She believes that the programs coordinated by the Department of Veterans Affairs, veteran service organizations and community-based

groups are wonderful but, they lack the funding necessary to solve the problems, and they lack the widespread awareness that would guarantee that every homeless veteran understands he or she is eligible for help.

On her tour throughout the nation, Miss America hopes to reach out to the homeless veterans, listen to their stories and speak on their behalf at the nation's capitol, encouraging Congress to place the necessary dollars in the hands of the experts.

French will travel approximately 20,000 miles a month advocating awareness, funding and volunteerism with homeless veterans' programs. *Courtesy of Miss America's web site.*★

## It's Official...

### Governor Locke signs military bills into law

Photos by Patrick J. McDonald



(Above) Governor Gary Locke signs into law a bill granting residence status to all active-duty military stationed in Washington State making them eligible for lower resident tuition rates at state colleges and universities.

(Below) Governor Locke congratulates Bill Merifield, WWII Army Air Corps veteran and chairman of the WWII Education Foundation, after signing the WWII Oral History Project bill. The project is intended to preserve for the education of Washington's school children, the memories and history of our state's citizens who served during World War II.



# New Leadership Instills Starship Model of Community Service

By Willie Slusarski,  
office assistant, Bremerton

During a recent visit to VFW Post 7498 in Port Hadlock to conduct Service Officer Training and a Veterans Benefits Fair, the staff of the Bremerton Field Office discovered a new meaning to community service. During the training session for five VFW Volunteer Service Officers (VSOs) from Posts 7498, 3213, and 10706, they revealed to us the depth of their involvement with the local community.

It all starts with the recent, newly-elected Post 7498 Commander, Pat Bowen. A very outgoing person with an absolutely contagious, friendly personality, he brings leadership talents that benefit both the post members and the local community. Since taking over command of the post, membership has grown significantly. He has also united all the Jefferson County VFW Posts to assist each other in growth and veterans services. His post Service Officer, Delmar Sayer, is in training and is very active in veteran services.

While visiting the post you will see an immaculately kept parking lot and building exterior kept up by the Quartermaster, George Eagleson. Inside you will find it set up to host

Photo by Miriam Young



**VFW service officer Pat Bowen brings leadership talents that benefit both the post members and the local community.**

a local church congregation, bingo, meetings, etc., and a large kitchen capable of supporting any event. Both kitchen and main room are also immaculate, well lit, and very orderly. The kitchen is managed by Mrs. Bowen. Mrs. Bowen is also very active in the community.

Three times a week two of the five post service officers are on duty for a 24-hour period and listed by name at the court house in the County Auditor's Office. Their phone numbers are listed on the duty roster. The Auditor's Office, specifically Julie Simmons, calls one of the VSOs listed to assist any veteran or family member who is applying for county Veterans Assistance Fund benefits. They rotate the duty throughout the month. They report that it is very effective and greatly appreciated by the county auditor. Upon receipt of a call, the VSO reports in person to the court house, assists the veteran, and personally interacts with the auditor to settle the claim for benefits.

The service does not stop with that. Should the veteran need other assistance, this group of VSOs and their spouses have the community wired.

Mrs. Bowen is very active in the Post, a member of the Ladies Auxiliary, and Ecumenical Community Helping Hands Organization. She is a key facet to the success of the community service. She arranges assistance using local citizens who

volunteer their talents to assist others. Assistance ranges from providing respite care to parents being care for by sons or daughters to allow them time to shop or go out for dinner; performing chores for the elderly like housekeeping or lawn maintenance, vehicle maintenance and minor repairs, to providing transportation needs.

"The community has responded in a way that they have never expected: those served wind up becoming servers. In other words, people who are shut-in due to various reasons wind up calling other shut-ins to check up on them," Mrs. Bowen reported. They get each other's name from the volunteers through casual conversation about the services they are providing in the community. Also, the lists of volunteers continues to grow. This networking of people caring for others is best described as a "safety net," with the linking of more and more people together in the net.

Another service available is temporary medical equipment and prosthetic devices. This includes hospital beds, wheelchairs, crutches,

**Continued on next page**

etc., loaned out to those in need, free of charge. The only stipulation is that you treat it like our own and return it when you no longer need it. These items are stored free of charge by a local commercial storage unit.

It doesn't end there. They also are very active in the local school. Currently the post is sponsoring a student in the "Voice of Democracy" speech contest. His picture is proudly displayed on the bulletin board by the main entrance. Just below it is an article declaring his accomplishments thus far in the contest. His next stop is Washington D. C. Just outside the kitchen is another bulletin board with clipping after clipping of the community events and how the VFW Posts are helping.

In summary, to Post 4798 and those associated with it, community service means more than serving vets. It means serving Jefferson County! Veteran or not, if you need assistance, are a resident in Jefferson county, then your local VFW Post is the place to start.★

## Veteran service delivery system unveiled by DVA in Wenatchee

By Fred Langston

**J**ohn Lee, deputy director of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs recently unveiled a pilot program, at two Wenatchee veterans meetings.

The program, now in operation in several coastal counties, is slated for a test in some Central Washington counties.

Lee stated that the current delivery system for veterans services is failing. The Washington veteran population is increasing in recent years at a rate of 4%, yet the number of veterans being serviced by the current system is in decline. He feels that a system like the one now in operation on the coast will reverse and improve the service-delivery system now existing in Central Washington.

With a theme of "going to the veteran" in place of the "waiting for the

veteran to come into the office" more veterans will receive service and a higher rate of claim approval will be incurred. Lee says that already they have raised the approval rate of claims in the test coastal counties from the old 40% to 75-80%, and many more veterans are participating in the service-delivery system.

The test program in Central Washington involves closure of the existing veteran service offices (Walla Walla, Wenatchee, Yakima) and the funds used to promote a "going to the vet" delivery system. A Veterans Community Service Coordinator will be appointed to be the regional point of contact. Veterans Information and Assistance Fairs will be held regularly offering outreach services.

Lee feels the new plan will improve the ability of veterans to file compensation and pension claims and have access to the professional cadre of advocates at the VA regional office in Seattle. With the success of the test program on the coast the outlook is for a much improved veteran service in Central Washington and an improved rate of approval of veterans claims.

*Reprinted from TREA Chapter 86 Newsletter★*

## Veteran leaders honored by state legislators

Washington veteran leaders posted the colors in the State House in March. Legislators honored veterans of World War I, Pearl Harbor, and WWII with several bills this year. (From Left) Fran Agnes, American Ex-POWs, Dan Gogerty, The Chosin Few, Maurice Sharp, American Ex-POWs, Doug Kotryba, Association of U.S. Army, Paul Jauron, AMVETS, unidentified, unidentified, Bill Merifield, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Milt Till, Veteran of Foreign Wars, unidentified, and Jim Monk, 1st Cavalry.



Photo by Anna Sullivan

## ❖ Soldiers Home Highlights

# Welcome to my home town

By Colleen Gilbert, staff writer

The spring rain was falling, the skies were gray but the residents and staff at the Washington Soldiers Home in Orting were cheerful and sunny as a red-headed tornado by the name of Dorothy Wilhelm made her way through the nursing care building on April 4.

Wilhelm, the host of "My Home Town," a monthly show that airs on AT&T Cable in Pierce County, was filming for her May show. Her tour began as residents of the music therapy bell choir entertained by ringing out "42<sup>nd</sup> Street" under the leadership of music therapist Barbara Stone. Then on to visiting residents engaged in poker, balloon volley ball, puzzles and coffee hour.

Always moving with a purpose, the self-proclaimed geriatric cheer-



Home staff and residents were given the chance to become the opening stars of "My Home Town" when host Dorothy Wilhelm came to Orting to film her show.

leader then made her way to an interview with Assistant Superintendent Gary Condra and ended her visit in the main dining room. There, staff and residents were given the chance to become the opening stars of the show as they excitedly announced for the camera "Welcome to My Home Town—Orting!" Showing professionalism, the first take was as enthusiastic as the fourth.

You can see the show on Channel 76 in Tacoma or Channel 29 in Pierce county each week during May on the following schedule:

Monday - 4 p.m.

Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday - 5 p.m.

Friday - 7 p.m.

Saturday - 8 p.m.

Wilhelm is a professional speaker and humorist whose career began at the age of 50, after raising 6 children and losing her husband, a retired veteran.

Her web site [www.itsnevertoo](http://www.itsnevertoo)

late.com, reveals a delightful, funny lady, whose book "The Right Way to Handle Porcupines" will be available in stores next year.★

## A day of gaming proves triumphant

By Bob Campbell, home volunteer

Reno Day participants wind up winners after a day of gaming at the Washington Soldiers Home. The traditional March event was again a huge success.

The games are adapted to varying levels of ability and include dart throwing, ring toss, basketball, golf, punch boards, slot machines, roulette wheel, a fish pond, target shooting with a cork gun and the all time favorite, black jack. Winners are rewarded with wooden nickels which they may redeem for a wide selection of prizes. Stuffed animals, personal care items, laundry supplies, souvenir items and snack foods are among the favorite choices.

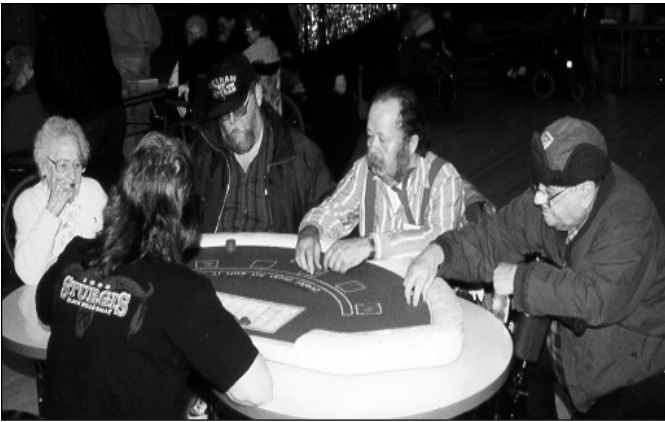
In addition to the recreational staff, the nurses and aides encouraged and enabled many of the skilled nursing facility residents to participate in Reno Day activities.

Several individual volunteers

Continued on next page



Dorothy Wilhelm spoke with residents, staff and volunteers as she toured the Orting facility, filming for her television show. Photos by Colleen Gilbert



(From left) 98-year-old Julia Hale, Lee Edwards, Jerry Rogers and Art Marvin hope for a winning blackjack hand at the Reno Day event.

were also on hand to lend their services as were members of the Puyallup VFW Post 2224 Auxiliary, accompanied by the VFW Jr. Girls Unit. And, the ever dependable men and women of the Tacoma Harley Owner's Group arrived on their beautifully detailed Harley motorcycles to help at the game tables, ensuring that the residents had an opportunity to participate

in the games of their choice. The Harley owner's group also brought a generous supply of distinctive Harley T-shirts as gifts for the residents.

An ample quantity of finger foods, soft drinks and deserts appeared at the appropriate time to refresh the gamblers. And, as in past Reno Days, everyone came out a winner. ★



Jack Barron (left) and Gene Perkins enjoy a game of chance at the roulette table.

## Can work be fun?

Submitted by Karen Bryan, RN staff development coordinator

(Editor's note: This is the second of a two part series devoted to fun in the workplace.)

Southwest Airlines, under the leadership of Herb Kelleher, is another great example of the philosophy of having fun at work. At Southwest Airlines they have a lot of fun. Flight attendants such as Karen Wood reveal the lighter side of safety in their preflight instructions. What do you do if there's a change in cabin pressure and oxygen masks appear? "After you stop screaming and don the mask," Wood advises, "unlike President Clinton, you must inhale." At Southwest Airlines success is no joke. They have the most productive work force in the industry as well as one of the safest flight records. And they have fun at work.

Matt Weinstein and Luke Barber have written a book titled *Work Like Your Dog, Fifty Ways to Work Less, Play More and Earn More*. The reviewer at amazon.com writes "Having more fun at work isn't a fantasy. It's a smart and savvy strategy to becoming a more creative, productive and dynamic employee." According to the review, *Work Like Your Dog* is an inspiring call to "come out and play" at work. The authors point out that dogs seem to have endless energy and tackle tasks with enthusiasm. By learning to play more at work, we can "lick" difficult challenges, take pleasures from parts of our jobs that we previously dreaded and reduce our levels of stress.

Webster's dictionary defines **Fun** as a source of amusement, enjoyment, or pleasure, to behave playfully. Fun consists of cheer, chuckles,

delight, ecstasy, frivolity, frolicking, gags, gaiety, gladness, glee, happiness, joviality, joy, light-heartedness, merriment, play, and smiles. Now there are a few guidelines to follow when having fun at work:

- \* Always remember our first priority is to our mission—*Serving Those Who Served*. We are here to care for our residents and whatever fun we have at work can never interfere with the care we are providing.

- \* Maintain our professionalism while having fun.

- \* When having fun at work we need to respect our co-workers. Having fun does not mean that we can be hurtful or mean to someone else.

- \* Maintain your sense of humor.

- \* Never raise your voice, although occasional laughter is ex-

**See Fun, page 8**

## ❖ Veterans Home Highlights

### Residents bestow honors on one of their own

Resident Bill May was honored recently at a short ceremony rededicating the service center in his name. According to Superintendent Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, this is the first time in the history of the home that a building has been named after a resident.

"Because the service center concept was pretty much the brainstorm of Bill and Armor Bolen, who has returned to the community, the Resident Council thought it appropriate



Photo by Miriam Young

**Bill May was honored by his fellow residents by naming the home's service center after him. Alfie Alvarado and Bill May look on as Frank Reese unveils the new sign.**

to name it after him," Alvarado said. "He is so well liked and respected among the rest of the home community, that all the residents agreed."

The hobby/craft store previ-

ously just sold the residents handmade arts and crafts and a few other sundry items before May and Bolen made a proposal to the administration to also include dry cleaning, photo processing, movie rentals, coffee and snacks. Following approval, the community vendors moved in their services, making them more convenient for residents and staff alike. The service center is run by residents enrolled in the therapeutic job incentive program.

Following the unveiling, a reception was held inside where attendees congratulated May.

"We didn't get all our ideas met but we sure tried like hell," said May as he enjoyed a piece of cake.★

## Fun

pected.

- \* Never spread harmful gossip about other employees.

- \* Be gender, religion and colorblind.

- \* Forgive and forget.

- \* Smile at least twice an hour for at least five seconds at a time!

So how can we add more fun to work? April was National Humor Month. But since April has passed, declare your own National Fun at Work Day. Observe this Southwest Airlines motto: "Take yourself lightly and take your job and your responsibilities seriously."

Listed below are some ideas to create fun at work:

- \* Create a bulletin board in the staff lounge where staff can post cartoons, quotes (from Fran Leibowitz: "I don't even butter my bread, I consider that cooking"), or factoids ("An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain. The giant

squid has the largest eyes in the world. A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.")

- \* Organize potluck lunches with a theme (Hawaiian Daze where everyone brings Hawaiian food and dresses up in tropical print clothes.)

- \* Provide toys at classes and meetings (silly putty, Nurf balls, bubbles).

- \* Have a morning and afternoon easy aerobic or yoga exercise break.

- \* Play with Sissy or Goldie (the therapy dogs) during your break.

- \* Take instant photos of staff, post, and allow employees to fill in captions.

- \* Have a contest for most interesting T-shirt, classiest shoes, coolest hat, funniest glasses.

- \* Have a "make up the wildest story" contest.

- \* Run a game-of-the-month contest such as Trivial Pursuit, Monopoly, chess or checkers for staff

to play during breaks.

- \* Play physical skill games (tossing, throwing, jumping) that can be played during breaks or on teams. Give best and worst score prizes.

- \* Have a staff talent show.

- \* Have staff who are on vacation or out of town send in weirdest postcards they can find. Put them on the bulletin board.

- \* Bring in a bouquet of flowers one day and present it to one of your coworkers. Tell him or her, "I want you to keep this on your desk for the next half-hour. Then pass it on to someone else and ask them to do the same!"

As you can see, there are all kinds of ways we can add more fun to work. Get with your coworkers and come up with your own ideas. We can't go around throwing fish but we can find ways to smile more, laugh more and have more fun at work.★

## ❖ **WDVA** **New Arrivals**

### **Orting...**

Elizabeth Henderson, Int FSA 1  
Yvonne Arnold, Int LPN 2  
Diana Smalls, Int FSA 1  
Kristi Holman, Acct 4  
Krystal Freitas, FSA 1

### **Retsil...**

Tamara Reuter, Prob Rec Spec 3  
Steven Ross, Temp Custodian  
Mary Ann Kenner-Nisson, Int NA1-C  
Carl Swenson, Temp Laundry Worker 1  
Felice Capone, Temp Fiscal Tech  
Casey Kinsfather, Prob FSA 1  
Linda Kelsch, Prob LPN 2  
Michael Orosz, Temp Fiscal Tech  
Ronda Kendrick, Temp Laundry Worker 1  
Janet McNeil, Int NA1-C  
Juliet Sanchez, Int NA1-C

Cristina Perron, Int NA1-C  
Connie Long, Int Laundry Worker 1  
Stanley Kajiyama, Temp Cook 2  
Ernest Brown, Temp Cook 2  
Glenda King, Int FSA 1  
Nanette Coombs, Int FSA 1  
Diana Perez, Int FSA 1  
April Swolgaard, Int FSA 1  
Sherlita Steinberger, Temp Accountant 1

### **Central Office...**

Ken Malmin, Budget Pro Spec

## **Promotions**

### **Orting...**

James Fitzgerald, Trades Helper to Gen Repairer

### **Retsil...**

Regina Kilby, Supply Control Tech to Supply Officer 1  
Dot Gaston, RN 3 to RN 4  
Chris Addison, RN 3 to RN 4  
Marian Stephan, RN 3 to RN 4

# Identifying the stars...

### **Central Office...**

Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, WVH Super to Asst Director

## **Separations**

### **Orting...**

Ruben Greer, LPN 3  
Gina Dietz, NA1-C  
David Ferguson, Truck Driver 2  
Sandi McNeeley, Admin Asst 2 (Retired)

### **Retsil...**

Tracy Abbott, RN 2  
Edward Ellsworth, Laundry Worker 1  
Stephen Erickson, Social Work Manager  
Robert Morehouse, Warehouse Worker 1  
Elizabeth Spratt, NA1-C  
Calvin Marlow, PSW 3  
Freda Smith, Temp FSA 1  
Linda Zellman, Rec Spec 3 (Retired)  
Suzanne Watson, RN 2  
Carl Swenson, Temp Laundry Wkr 1  
Edwin Hassan, Laundry Wkr 1

Jennifer Cecere, LPN 3  
Ponce Enriquez, Int FSA 1  
Laura Gilbert, Int FSA 1  
Darby Overton, Int FSA 1  
Augustus Lamorena, Int FSA 1

### **Central Office...**

Walt Preibe, Safety Officer (Retired)  
Lynn Rodriguez, VBS 2 (Retiring May 31)

## **Allstars Softball Game Schedule**

May 26 -vs- AG #3 6:15  
June 9 -vs- DOL 8:45  
June 12 -vs- CTED 8:45  
June 23 -vs- OFM 7:30  
June 30 -vs- L&I #1 8:45  
July 14 -vs- DSHS#5 7:30  
July 21 -vs- GA 8:45

All games are played at Buchnell park on Marvin Road near the Nisqually Middle School in Lacey. Team members appreciate your support when you fill the stands with WDVA fans.

**Street Talk:** Following a joint resident council meeting at the central office, these council members were asked, "When was the last time you were in Olympia and what did you do?"



"May 28, 1999 I attended the WWII Memorial dedication ceremony."

--Cliff Russell, Army Veteran - Retsil



"In 1995 I stopped over at the bus station on my way home to Tacoma, after living in Wyoming for 19 years."

--Gene McDonough, Air Force Veteran - Orting



"Several years ago my wife and I came to Olympia and we toured the Capitol grounds."

--Fred Brautigam, Army & Air Force Veteran - Orting



"May 28, 1999 I came to the WWII Memorial dedication program."

--Danny White, Army Veteran - Orting



"I was here for the Korean War Memorial dedication, because I'm a Korean War veteran."

--Wally Soule, Army Veteran - Retsil

## 50th Anniversary Korean War vets sought for commemoration

In preparation for the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Korean War, veterans of that war are being encouraged to register with the U.S. Korea Foundation, Inc. The Foundation wants to locate all Korean War veterans and to notify them of the national and international events that will mark the anniversaries 2000-2003. If you were on active duty between June 25, 1950 and July 27, 1953 please contact the Foundation as indicated. Include your full name, complete mailing address, phone number, fax numbers and email. Also include you dates of military service in Korea and the branch of service and the unit(s) you served with. Immediate family members of deceased Korean War veterans are also encouraged to participate.

Contact: U.S. Korea 2000 Foundation, Inc.

4600 Duke Street, Suite 416  
Alexandria, Virginia 22304-2517

Fax: (703) 684-0193

Phone: (703) 212-8128

*Source: Purple Heart Foundation  
News March 2000★*

## 70th Regional Support Command to honor Korean War Veterans

On June 24 and 25, 2000, the 70th Regional Support Command, the Northwest's hometown Army

Reserve, will celebrate a "Spirit of the Northwest" weekend.

The main event of the weekend is the kickoff of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Korean War. Korean War veterans are cordially invited to join the festivities, as well as the public, and the soldiers and family members of the 70th Regional Support Command for the weekend's events. The Korean War Commemoration ceremony will begin at 1 p.m. Sunday, June 25, at Trailblazer Field at the Fort Lawton complex.

Other events occurring that weekend include the remembrance of the activation of the 70th Infantry Division 57 years ago at Camp Adair, Oregon. In addition, the 70th RSC will be incorporating a celebration of the Army's 225th birthday into the open house activities.

On Sunday morning, June 25, the 1395th Transportation Terminal Battalion will accept the keys for the recently completed Fort Lawton Army Reserve Center. The new facility will concentrate all the units that have been housed in pre-World War II barracks in the 500 area in Discovery Park into a central, modern location.

As part of the commemoration, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Clyde R. Cherberg, a Korean War veteran, native of Seattle and past commander of the 70th RSCs forerunner organization, the 124th U.S. Army Reserve Command, was interviewed to capture his memories.

For more information contact Ms. Pam Briola (70RSC PAO) [ **B r i o l a P @ u s a r c - e m n 2 . a r m y . m i l** ] ★

## Korean War POW/ MIA family members sought

Since 1996, the North Korean government has permitted the Department of Defense (DOD) investigation and excavation teams to work in North Korea in search of POW/MIAs. A total of 35 remains have been recovered as a result of the joint recovery operations.

The DOD is trying to locate family members who lost loved ones in the war. They have a roster of soldiers unaccounted for from the Korean War whose place of birth or home of record is listed as Washington. Family members are encouraged to contact DOD at 1-800-892-2490 and provide them with next-of-kin information. The Army point of contact is Lt. Col. Rosemary Salak.★

## New veterans' web site lists certification, licensing requirements

Occupational credential's, such as a licensed or certification, are increasingly common requirements for many civilian jobs. Now, thanks to a web site developed by the U.S. Department of Labor, current and former military personnel can easily learn about licenses and certifications they need to enter a wide variety of employment fields.

"Civilian credentialing requirements are typically based on education, training, and experience in the civilian sector," said ASVET

Espiridion "Al" Borrego. "This web site helps link military experience to the civilian workplace. It can help veterans avoid unemployment or underemployment because they don't know what credentials are needed for specific occupations."

Known as the Military and Veterans Credentialing Network (MVCNet), the web site has two key components; a section designed for service members and veterans seeking information about civilian licensure and certification, and a section intended for employers seeking access to a qualified pool of skilled employees who may have learned their skills while in the military.

The section on transitioning to civilian careers answers frequently asked questions about civilian licensing and certification, the requirements for 225 civilian occupations on licensing and certification.

The section for employers gives an overview on major military occupational specialties, examples of the comparability of military and civilian training, and some examples of joint initiatives between the vets and employers to help veterans move into civilian jobs requiring certification or licensing.

Over the years, the military has increasingly modeled its education and training programs after comparable civilian programs. In healthcare, for example, most of the training programs offered by the armed forces have been adapted to meet the accreditation standards of civilian accrediting agencies. Many have actually attained accreditation status.

MCVNet can be accessed at [www.dol.gov/dol/vets](http://www.dol.gov/dol/vets) and then

clicking on the headline Comparability of Military and Civilian Training. *Source: VETSNET Vol. 9, No. 1*★

## B Company U.S. Marine Corps reunion

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, B Company U.S. Marine Corps Reserves is extending an invitation to their reunion, to all veterans. The reunion will be held August 5, 2000 at the Aberdeen Eagles Hall starting at 1700 hours. "Iron Mike" Mervosh Sgt. Maj. (Ret) is the keynote speaker. For more information, reservation forms or to RSVP, call Marion Bogdanovich at (360) 249-4350.★

## Combat veterans eligible for action ribbon

Navy and Marine Corps veterans who served in combat in or after WWII are now eligible to receive the Combat Action Ribbon (CAR). Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig has recently authorized this award for those who served in combat, but never received their CAR. "At a time when we are focusing on the contributions of these great Americans, this seems especially fitting," said Danzig.

In order to be eligible for the CAR, veterans must have participated in ground or surface combat after December 6, 1941, but before March 1, 1961, and have not already been recognized for the same participation. The time period required for

submission is being waived in all cases. Two blocks of time have been designated for eligibility; WWII: Dec. 7, 1941 - April 14, 1946, and Korea: June 27, 1950 - July 27, 1954. Navy veterans who served during these periods may write directly to the Navy Awards Branch for settlement at: Chief of Naval Operations (NO9B33) 2000 Navy Pentagon Washington, D.C. 20350-2000. The following information must be provided:

- Standard Form 180 or cover letter with full name, social security number, service number, period of eligibility, unit assigned at the time and mailing address.

- Copy of Naval Personnel Form 553 or DD 214 or DD 215.

Only CAR requests dated after March 15, 2000 will be forwarded to the board for decision. Any prior requests must be resubmitted.

*Source: U.S. Military Medals, Honors and Awards Resource Guide*★

## Corrections

In the last issue of *Veteran Voices*, in the article on retirees awarded special compensation, the contact person Larry Dingman's phone number was incorrect. His correct number is: (253) 968-9215 or 967-0088 at Fort Lewis Retirement Services.

An apology is extended to Martha McClammy of the Soldiers Home who was quoted in the street talk section. Her Navy veteran status was accidentally omitted.

The section on the new phone system for WDVA also had a mistake. The reception desk phone number will not change, it will remain (360) 753-5586. ★

**Here's  
the  
latest**

## ❖ **MEMORIAL DAY 2000 EVENTS**

### **Saturday, May 27, 2000**

★ Noon - Memorial Day Parade  
Downtown Centralia, Washington  
POC: Larry Van Quill, Parade chairman  
(360) 736-1776

★ 10 a.m. -Thurston County Veterans Council  
Ceremony at State Capitol Rotunda – one hour  
POC: Rose Gallaher (360) 456-0397

★ Noon (musical prelude at 11:30 a.m.)-Memorial  
Day Ceremony at Tahoma National Cemetery,  
18600 SE 240<sup>th</sup> St, Kent, WA  
Sponsored by Cemetery Support Group  
POC: (425) 413-9614

***Minimum of parking available***

### **Sunday, May 28, 2000**

★ 2 p.m. - WWII Memorial Education Foundation  
Ceremony- WWII Memorial Capitol Campus  
POC: Bill Merifield (360) 426-5006

★ **National Memorial Day Concert**  
Remembering Korea: This years PBS's National  
Memorial Day Concert commemorates the 50th  
anniversary of the Korean War with an all-star  
salute to the brave men and women who sacri-  
ficed their lives and safety for the cause of free-  
dom. Hosted by World War II veterans Ossie  
Davis, the annual holiday event airs on PBS tele-  
vision stations nation wide on May 28, 2000  
from 8 - 9:30 p.m. ET (check local listings).

★ 2 p.m. - Ceremonies at Washington Soldiers  
Home, Chilson Hall, in Orting, WA  
John King, keynote speaker  
POC: Lynn Zemke (360) 893-4511

★ 2 p.m. - Veterans Memorial Cemetery and  
Evergreen-Washelli, 11,111 Aurora Ave. North  
Seattle. Col. Phil Smart Sr., keynote speaker  
POC: Marylou Conrad (206) 362-5200

★ 4 p.m. - Washington Memorial Park  
POW/MIA Living Memorial Plaza  
16445 International Boulevard  
(North of Sea-Tac International Airport)  
POC: Debby Rule (206) 242-1787

### **Monday, May 29, 2000**

★ 10 a.m. - Ceremonies at Washington Veterans  
Home Auditorium in Retsil, WA.  
John King, keynote speaker  
POC: April Harris (360) 895-4700

### **Veteran Voices**

*Veteran Voices* is  
printed for people  
like Sandi  
McNeeley, Admin.  
Asst. who is  
retiring May 25,  
after 30 years,  
whose husband  
Larry, just retired,  
after 25 years, and  
whose mother and  
father both live at  
the Soldiers  
Home.



**Washington State  
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P.O. Box 41150  
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Olympia, WA 98504-1150**

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